



CAPT Carl Olson Bachman

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Captain (CAPT) Carl Olson Bachman (Service No O-13832) was born on 31 Jul 1917 in State Center, Marshall County, IA. His parents were Carl Wilhelm Bachman, who was born in Nebraska, and Sarah Matilda Bachman (nee Olson), who was born in Iowa. After his mother died in 1941, Carl's father married Margaret Elizabeth Teslie in 1942, and they had a daughter, Patricia, in 1943.

Carl graduated from Marshalltown High School in Marshalltown, IA, and then from Morningside College in Sioux City, IA, after which he took a postgraduate course at New York University in New York City.

When Carl registered for the draft on 16 Oct 1940 in Iowa, he was living in Storm Lake, IA, and working there at the Citizen's First National Bank. Carl enlisted in the US Marine Corps Paratroopers prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor and transferred to the regular branch of the Marine Corps on 3 Jan 1942. Later that year, Carl received his commission as a Second Lieutenant (2LT) after completing his training at Quantico, VA.

Carl married Ellen Taylor, who lived in Chevy Chase, MD, and they had a daughter, Sarah, in 1943, named after Carl's mother.

CAPT Bachman was a member of Company H, 3d Battalion, 28th Marines Regiment, 5th Marine Division. The 28th Marine Regiment was activated on 8 Feb 1944 at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California. Many of the first members of the Regiment had previously been members of the recently disbanded Raiders and Paramarines. The Regiment was initially staged at Tent Camp 1 in the Las Pulgas Valley on Camp Pendleton. Upon completion of their training in late September to early October, they move to Hilo, HI, where they remained for the next four months training for their first mission.

The 28th Marines was originally scheduled to assault Yap in the Caroline Islands in the fall of 1944 but that was changed. The plan then was for the invasion of Iwo Jima and called for the 28th Marines to land at Green Beach, which was on the far left of the landing zone, just at the base of Mount Suribachi. The 1st and 2nd Battalions were to drive across the 750 yard neck of the island and cut off the mountain from the rest of the island. CAPT Bachman's 3rd Battalion was placed in reserve for the initial assault.

The 28th Marines arrived off the coast of Iwo Jima on 16 February. The first portions of the 28th Marines landed on Iwo Jima at Green Beach just after 09:00 on 19 Feb 1945. The 3rd Battalion was fully ashore by early afternoon, having taken heavy casualties in the water and while crossing the beach. By late in the afternoon the Regiment had isolated Mount Suribachi and began to commence its attacks south against the defenders of the island redoubt. The 28th Marines were the only one of the four Regiments that landed on D-Day to achieve their objectives.

From 19 to 23 February, the 28th Marines fought to secure Mount Suribachi. Progress was initially slow and measured in yards as the Marines had to fight their way through hundreds of layered and mutually supporting Japanese pillboxes, blockhouses, spiderholes, and strongpoints. By the morning of 23 February, Mount Suribachi had been encircled.

The 3rd Platoon, Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, was chosen for a reconnaissance patrol to scale Mount Suribachi and find a path to the top, if possible. These men reached the summit at approximately 10:20 and proceeded to raise a US flag. It was the raising of this flag that led the then

Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal, to comment that "...the raising of that flag on Suribachi means a Marine Corps for the next five hundred years." Fearing that the flag would be taken by higher-ups, Lt. Col. Chandler W. Johnson, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, ordered a second patrol to the top of the mountain to replace the flag with a larger one that could later be given to any senior ranking personnel that wanted it, as he intended for the first flag to remain with the battalion. It was the raising of this second flag that was caught on film by Joe Rosenthal and would become the iconic photo of the battle.

After the capture of Mount Suribachi, the entire 28th Marine Regiment was thrown into the fight for the northern half of the island. For his conduct on that day, CAPT Bachman was awarded the Silver Star Medal, which is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in combat.

The Citation reads:

“The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Captain Carl O. Bachman (MCSN: 0-13832), United States Marine Corps Reserve, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of Company H attached to the Third Battalion, Twenty-Eighth Marines, FIFTH Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, on 23 February 1945. Undaunted after five days of bitter fighting, Captain Bachman rallied his tired and depleted troops when ordered to flank the battalion to the beach and, establishing himself on the front lines with his men, encouraged and directed them during the fanatic infiltration attack launched during the night by the enemy with hand grenades and knives, personally engaging in fierce grenade duels until the Japanese assault was repulsed and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy. By his indomitable spirit and coolness in the face of extreme danger, Captain Bachman inspired confidence in his men and prevented a serious break-through which would have been disastrous to vital units at the rear. His superb leadership and unwavering devotion to duty throughout the bitter hostilities contributed essentially to the defense of his sector and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander in Chief, Pacific: Serial 31902 (July 10, 1945)”

On 14 Mar 1945, CAPT Bachman was Killed In Action during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

In addition to the Silver Star Medal, CAPT Bachman earned the following awards:

Purple Heart
Combat Action Ribbon
Navy Presidential Unit Citation
American Defense Service Medal
American Campaign Medal
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal
World War II Victory Medal

CAPT Bachman was initially interred in 5th Marine Division Cemetery on Iwo Jima, located near Mount Suribachi. CAPT Bachman's remains were repatriated to the United States under an initiative known as, "The Return of World War II Dead Program," to locate aircraft crash sites, comb former battlefields for isolated graves, and disinter temporary military cemeteries around the globe. The U.S. Army created the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) to perform this task.

Once remains had been recovered, they were transported to Central Identification Laboratories (CIL), where technicians confirmed or established identifications of more than 280,000 individuals. The identified service members were then buried according to the wishes of their next of kin.

CAPT Bachman was buried in Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery, also known as Sunset Memorial Cemetery, located at 2250 St. Anthony Blvd, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, MN.

Sources:

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<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A&D%20Docs/CVA/FallenHeroesWWII.pdf>

<https://navylog.navymemorial.org/bachman-carl>

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<https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaFamWebWWII>

This story is part of the Stories Behind the Stars project (see <http://www.storiesbehindthestars.org>). This is a national effort of volunteers to write the stories of all 421,000+ of the US WWII fallen on Together We Served and Fold3. Can you help write these stories? Together We Served and Fold3/Find A Grave have smartphone apps that will allow people to visit any war memorial or cemetery and read these stories of WWII fallen.

If you noticed anything erroneous in this profile or have additional information to contribute, please contact me at lwiesenfelder@gmail.com

Added by: [lwiesenfelder764](#)